

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LISBON 02198 161840Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 /080 W

----- 041095

R 161624Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ROSA COUTINHO INTERVIEW

SUMMARY: IN TV INTERVIEW ROSA COUTINHO SAID AFM WILL DRAW LESSONS FROM ELECTIONS BUT WILL NOT BE PRISONERS OF RESULTS; THAT PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IN NATO IS A "GEOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE;" THAT RESULTS OF MARCH 11 INVESTIGATION WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK. COUTINHO INCREASINGLY EMERGING AS SPOKESMAN FOR AFM AND THIRD WORLD GROUP IN MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

1. ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURE IN PORTUGAL, GAVE A ONE-HOUR TV INTERVIEW APRIL 15, RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 02198 161840Z

THREE WELL KNOWN CENTER AND LEFT PERSONALTIES. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. ELECTIONS:

THE ADMIRAL STATED THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR 50 YEARS FOR FREE ELECTIONS. NOT TO HAVE THE ELECTIONS "WOULD BE LIKE TAKING A TOY AWAY FROM A BABY." ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD, AND "WE (AFM) WILL DRAW SOME LESSONS FROM THEM," AS WILL THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, COUTINHO WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE WILL NOT LET OURSELVES BE PRISONERS OF THE RESULTS..." (COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTIONS A FEW DAYS AGO (LISBON 2127)).

3. NATO:

COUTINHO SAID THAT PORTUGAL'S CONTINUATION IN NATO "IS ALMOST A GEOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE," AN IMPERATIVE WHICH WILL ONLY DISAPPEAR WITH THE END OF THE WARSAW PACT. ONLY WHEN THAT OCCURS CAN PORTUGAL GRADUALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE NATO ALLIANCE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION IN REMAINING IN NATO AND HAVING CLOSE TIES WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

4. RELATIONS WITH EUROPE:

PORTUGAL, REMAINING PART OF EUROPE, CAN AND SHOULD BECOME A BRIDGE LINKING EUROPE WITH THE THIRD WORLD, ESPECIALLY WITH THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

5. POLITICAL PARTIES AND AFM:

COUTINHO REPEATED HIS EARLIER CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A CIVILIAN PARTY OR COALITION OF PARTIES TO SUPPORT THE AFM, AND TO WHICH THE AFM COULD GRADUALLY BEGIN TO TRANSFER CERTAIN OF ITS POWERS. THE COMPONENTS OF THIS NEW PARTY WOULD NOT FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES AS DO EXISTING PARTIES, WHO HE SAID HAVE DONE LITTLE TO EDUCATE THE POPULACE. THE ADMIRAL DENIED THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS AKIN TO A ONE PARTY STATE, AFFIRMING HIS DESIRE FOR A MULTIPARTY FUTURE FOR PORTUGAL.

6. MARCH 11 INQUIRY:

CIVILIANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT; PRESS STORIES ALLUDING TO DISCONTENT IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE REVOLUTION MISLED THOSE WHO MADE THE COUP INTO BELIEVING THAT "THE FRUIT WAS RIPE FOR THE PCIKING" -- A FATAL ERROR. THE PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 02198 161840Z

LIMINARY RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO MARCH 11 ARE BEING WRITTEN UP NOW AND WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK. THE REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 28 EVENTS IS ALSO BEING PREPARED.

7. COMMENT:

ROSA COUTINHO IS MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY ENTERING THE PUBLIC LIMELIGHT AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AFM AND THE THIRD WORLD SUPPORTERS IN THE MILITARY. HE IS CURRENTLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND REPORTEDLY MAY SOON BE GIVEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY FIELD. IN ADDITION,

COUTINHO HAS BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO SPEND UP TO US\$400,000  
WITHOUT NEED TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

8. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER COUTINHO IS ACTING AS A  
SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GROUP, OR WHETHER  
HE IS CARVING OUT HIS OWN AUTONOMOUS OR SEMI-AUTONOMOUS POWER  
BASE WITH A VIEW TOWARDS BECOMING PRIME MINISTER SOME DAY.  
WE SUSPECT IT IS THE LATTER.  
CARLUCCI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESS CONFERENCES, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON02198  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750134-0028  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750447/aaaabrck.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROSA COUTINHO INTERVIEW SUMMARY: IN TV INTERVIEW ROSA COUTINHO SAID AFM WILL DRAW  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, NATO, (COUTINHO, ROSA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006